

**IN THE CLAIMS**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below.

1.     **(Original)** A method for indicating the priority of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call, comprising:

receiving a dialed number for a connection;  
generating a call setup request including the dialed number;  
receiving a priority for the call based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;  
generating a priority indicator based on the priority; and  
transmitting the call setup request and priority indicator.

2.     **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

3.     **(Original)** The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

receiving an alerting phrase from the user; and  
transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

4.     **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority is high.

5.     **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority is low.

6.     **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been transmitted.

7.     **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

8.     **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating the priority in response to at least activation of a button on an input device by the user.

9.     **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising prompting the user for the priority with an automated system.

10.    **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating the priority in response to at least a spoken input sound recognized by voice recognition logic.

11.    **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
accessing a rule base to validate the priority; and  
negating the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base.

12.    **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, further comprising validating the priority at a calling party device.

13.    **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, further comprising validating the priority at a called party device.

14.    **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding the calling party device.

15.    **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding both the calling and called parties' devices.

16.    **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

17. **(Original)** A method for indicating the priority of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call, comprising:

receiving a call setup request to a dialed number;  
receiving a priority indicator for the connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;  
processing the call setup request to set up a connection; and  
transmitting the priority indicator for delivery to a destination device for indication to a call recipient.

18. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

19. **(Original)** The method of Claim 18, further comprising:  
receiving an alerting phrase from the user; and  
transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

20. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the priority is high.

21. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the priority is low.

22. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been processed.

23. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

24. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, further comprising:  
accessing a rule base to validate the priority; and  
negating the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base.

25. **(Original)** The method of Claim 24, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding the calling party device.

26. **(Original)** The method of Claim 24, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of the calling and call parties' devices.

27. **(Original)** The method of Claim 24, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

28. **(Original)** A method for indicating the priority of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call, comprising:

ringing a dialed number to establish a connection with a calling party;  
receiving a priority indicator for the connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;  
indicating to a call recipient the priority of the connection.

29. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

30. **(Original)** The method of Claim 29, further comprising:  
receiving an alerting phrase from the user; and  
transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

31. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the priority is high.

32. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the priority is low.

33. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, further comprising:  
accessing a rule base to validate the priority; and  
indicating the priority if valid.

34. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the rule base is based on the statistical information gathered regarding the calling party device.

35. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of the calling and called parties' devices.

36. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

37. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the call priority is indicated by a distinctive ring.

38. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the call priority is indicated by a flashing light.

39. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the call priority is indicated by a display on an LCD display.

40. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the call priority is indicated by a spoken phrase.

41. **(Original)** The method of Claim 40, wherein the spoken phrase is a pre-recorded voice file.

42. **(Original)** The method of Claim 40, wherein the spoken phrase is a real-time uttered phrase of the calling party.

43. **(Original)** A system, comprising:  
logic encoded in media; and,  
the logic being operable to receive a dialed number for a connection; generate a call setup request including the dialed number; receive a priority for the call based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number; generate a priority indicator based on the priority; transmit the call setup request and priority indicator.

44. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

45. **(Original)** The system of Claim 44, the logic further operable to:  
receive an alerting phrase from the user; and  
transmit the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

46. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the priority is high.

47. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the priority is low.

48. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been transmitted.

49. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

50. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, the logic further operable to generate the priority in response to at least activation of a button on an input device by the user.

51. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, the logic further operable to prompt the user for the priority with an automated system.

52. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, the logic further operable to generate the priority in response to at least a spoken input recognized by voice recognition logic.

53. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, the logic further operable to:  
access a rule base to validate the priority request; and  
negate the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base.

54. **(Original)** The system of Claim 53, the logic further operable to validate the priority at a calling party device.

55. **(Original)** The system of Claim 53, the logic further operable to validate the priority at a called party device.

56. **(Original)** The system of Claim 53, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding the calling party device.

57. **(Original)** The system of Claim 53, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of the calling and called parties' devices.

58. **(Original)** The system of Claim 53, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

59. **(Original)** A system, comprising:

logic encoded in media; and,

the logic being operable to receive a call setup request to a dialed number; receive a priority indicator for the connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number; process the call setup request to set up a connection; and transmit the priority indicator for delivery to a destination device for indication to a call recipient.

60. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

61. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, the logic further operable to:  
receive an alerting phrase from the user; and  
transmit the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

62. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, wherein the priority is high.

63. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, wherein the priority is low.

64. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been processed.

65. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

66. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, the logic further operable to:  
access a rule base to validate the priority request; and  
negate the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base.

67. **(Original)** The system of Claim 66, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding the calling party device .

68. **(Original)** The system of Claim 66, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of the calling and called parties' devices.

69. **(Original)** The system of Claim 66, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

70. **(Original)** A system, comprising:  
logic encoded in media; and,  
the logic being operable to ring a dialed number to establish a connection with a calling party; receive a priority indicator for the connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number; indicate to a call recipient the priority of the connection.

71. **(Original)** The system of Claim 70, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

72. **(Original)** The system of Claim 71, the logic further operable to:  
receive an alerting phrase from the user; and  
transmit the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

73. **(Original)** The system of Claim 70, wherein the priority is high.

74. **(Original)** The system of Claim 70, wherein the priority is low.

75. **(Original)** The system of Claim 70, the logic further operable to:  
access a rule base to validate the priority request; and  
indicate the priority if valid.

76. **(Original)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding the calling party device.

77. **(Original)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of the calling and called parties' devices.

78. **(Original)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

79. **(Original)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the call priority is indicated by a distinctive ring.

80. **(Original)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the call priority is indicated by a flashing light.

81. **(Original)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the call priority is indicated by a display on an LCD display.

82. **(Original)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the call priority is indicated by a spoken phrase.

83. **(Original)** The system of Claim 82, wherein the spoken phrase is a pre-recorded voice file.

84. **(Original)** The system of Claim 82, wherein the spoken phrase is a real-time uttered phrase of the calling party.

85.     **(Original)** A system, comprising:  
a means for receiving a dialed number for a connection;  
a means for generating a call setup request including the dialed number;  
a means for receiving a priority for the call based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;  
a means for generating a priority indicator based on the priority;  
a means for transmitting the call setup request and priority indicator.

86.     **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

87.     **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, further comprising:  
a means for receiving an alerting phrase from the user; and  
a means for transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

88.     **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the priority is high.

89.     **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the priority is low.

90.     **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been processed.

91.     **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

92.     **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, further comprising a means for generating the priority in response to at least activation of a button on an input device.

93.     **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, further comprising a means for prompting the user for the priority with an automated system.

94. **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, further comprising a means for generating the priority in response to at least a spoken input recognized by voice recognition logic.

95. **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, further comprising:  
a means for accessing a rule base to validate the priority request; and  
a means for negating the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base.

96. **(Original)** The system of Claim 95, further comprising a means for validating the priority at a calling party device.

97. **(Original)** The system of Claim 95, further comprising a means for validating the priority at the called party device.

98. **(Original)** The system of Claim 95, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding the calling party device.

99. **(Original)** The system of Claim 95, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of the calling and called parties' devices.

100. **(Original)** The system of Claim 95, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

101. **(Original)** A system, comprising:  
a means for receiving a call setup request to a dialed number;  
a means for receiving a priority indicator for the connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;  
a means for processing the call setup request to set up a connection; and  
a means for transmitting the priority indicator for delivery to a destination device for indication to a call recipient.

102. **(Original)** The system of Claim 101, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

103. **(Original)** The system of Claim 102, further comprising:  
a means for receiving an alerting phrase from the user; and  
a means for transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

104. **(Original)** The system of Claim 101, wherein the priority is high.

105. **(Original)** The system of Claim 101, wherein the priority is low.

106. **(Original)** The system of Claim 101, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been processed.

107. **(Original)** The system of Claim 101, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

108. **(Original)** The system of Claim 101, further comprising:  
a means for accessing a rule base to validate the priority request; and  
a means for negating the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base.

109. **(Original)** The system of Claim 108, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding the calling party device.

110. **(Original)** The system of Claim 108, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of the calling and called parties' devices.

111. **(Original)** The system of Claim 108, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

112. **(Original)** A system, comprising:  
a means for ringing a dialed number to establish a connection with a calling party;  
a means for receiving a priority indicator for the connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;  
a means for indicating to a call recipient the priority of the connection.

113. **(Original)** The system of Claim 112, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

114. **(Original)** The system of Claim 113, further comprising:  
a means for receiving an alerting phrase from the user; and  
a means for transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

115. **(Original)** The system of Claim 112, wherein the priority is high.

116. **(Original)** The system of Claim 112, wherein the priority is low.

117. **(Original)** The system of Claim 112, further comprising:  
a means for accessing a rule base to validate the priority request; and  
a means for indicating the priority if valid.

118. **(Original)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding the calling party device.

119. **(Original)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information regarding a combination of the calling and called parties' devices.

120. **(Original)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

121. **(Original)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the call priority is indicated by a distinctive ring.

122. **(Original)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the call priority is indicated by a flashing light.

123. **(Original)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the call priority is indicated by a display on an LCD display.

124. **(Original)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the call priority is indicated by a spoken phrase.

125. **(Original)** The system of Claim 124, wherein the spoken phrase is a pre-recorded voice file.

126. **(Original)** The system of Claim 124, wherein the spoken phrase is a real-time uttered phrase by the calling party.

127. **(Original)** A method for indicating the priority of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calls, comprising:

receiving contemporaneously with placement of a call a user specified priority for the call; and

communicating the user specified priority as part of placement of the call for indication of the priority to a called party.

128. **(Original)** The method of Claim 127, wherein the user specified priority is independent of the user and the called party.

129. **(Original)** The method of Claim 127, further comprising blocking indication of the priority based on input provided by the called party.